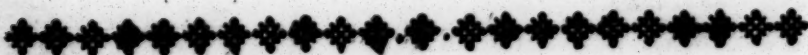




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T O A  
N O B L E L O R D :  
O R, A  
Faithful Representation  
O F T H E  
D O U G L A S C A U S E .



*And. Henderson*

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L E T T E R  
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N O B L E L O R D:  
O R, A  
Faithful Representation  
O F T H E  
Douglas Cause.

C O N T A I N I N G  
Many Curious and Essential Anecdotes:  
A M O N G W H I C H,  
The Rise of the Family of DOUGLAS;  
A N D A  
True Character of the late Duke of that Name.

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*Fiat justitia, aut pereat mundus.* SEN.

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L O N D O N:  
Printed for A. HENDERSON in Westminster-Hall;  
and sold at his House in College-street, West-  
minster. 1769.



A  
L E T T E R  
T O A  
N O B L E L O R D.

MY LORD,

**A**S there has not been a cause before any of the courts of Great Britain, more important in itself, or more serious in its consequences, than that known by the name of the Douglas Cause; it may not be disagreeable to give a faithful narrative of the proceedings upon so grand and interesting a matter; that by thus opening up the principal scenes, the Exit, so hurtful to those who began the same, may more clearly and fully appear.

Your lordship will be pleased to know, that on the 10th of August 1746, lady Jane Douglas, only sister to Archibald late duke of Douglas, was married to John  
B                      Stewar,



Stewart, commonly called Colonel Stewart, brother to Sir George Stuart of Grandtully, in Perthshire, a gentleman of rank and character, descended from the kings of Scotland, but at that time a man of profusion, dissipated and thoughtless. In his younger years he was one of the handsomest men of his age, of an agreeable temper, and a striking outward appearance, being six feet high without shoes.

When 25 years old, *anno* 1715, he was, by the persuasion of the marquis of Tullibarden, kept from opposing that hasty insurrection, which at once discovered the friends and enemies of the government, and in which the loyalty and attachment of the principal families in North Britain to the illustrious house of Hanover shone in the most conspicuous manner. After that period, he, with many others, went over to Gottenburgh, where he entered into the service of Charles XII. then taken up with his expedition into Norway, and continued there till the death of that monarch, December 11, 1718. Returning, he married a daughter of Sir James MacKenzie of Roystoun, one of the lords of session, by whom he has the present Sir John Stewart, who is still alive.

The

The colonel's elder brother, Sir George, was remarkable for loyalty, and for a faithful service of forty years in the king's navy; from whence, on account of a cold which brought on a paralytic disorder, retiring upon half pay, he appropriated that small income for the support of his brother, colonel John; a scanty subsistence indeed for a man of gaiety, but yet which, with œconomy, might have supported him like a gentleman, especially as he had a horse and servant to attend him, and a general welcome to stay with his brother so long as he pleased. After spending three years in the Swedish service, and roaming through Holland and Brabant for six more, after a married life of ten years, and a widowhood of twelve, he, in the 59th year of his age, married lady Jane Douglas, sister to the duke of Douglas, a lady of a pious and religious character; and then, in the 48th year of her age, she was one of the finest women of her time, breathed all the spirit of a Douglas, habituated to devotion, and a constant attendant upon the ordinances of the church.

Six days after the marriage, lady Jane  
set out for Huntingdon, whither Sir John  
B 2 had



had gone before, and where he met her, attended by Mrs. Helen Hewitt, a companion and confidant, and by two maid servants, Isabel Walker and Euphemia Caw. That night they lay together at the George inn, thus owning the marriage which only Mrs. Hewitt knew before. Next day they set out for Harwich, and from thence to the Hague. Here they resided 4 months; and on the 4th of January, proceeded to Utrecht, where staying till April, they transported themselves to Aix-la-Chapelle, a place famous for the treaty of peace, concluded by Van Beuning, burgomaster of Amsterdam, between the States General and Lewis XIV. May 2, 1668, and later than this, for the more solemn treaty between the chief powers of Europe, October 1748.

In the month of October preceding, lady Jane proved to be with child, and was visited by several British persons of distinction, particularly the earl of Crawford, lady Wigton, lord Blantyre, and Miss Primrose. The progress of her pregnancy was every day more visible, only a natural bashfulness hindered her own discovery of it so soon as might be expected.

The



The congress at Aix-la-Chapelle hindered the continuance of lady Jane there, as every kind of living became dear, and that the British plenipotentiary, the earl of Sandwich, took the lodging wherein lady Jane resided; and money failing, they were reduced to the necessity of retiring to a cheaper country, and where the number of visitors would be diminished, for beyond their ability they entertained strangers with the utmost politeness and hospitality. On the 22d of May they left Aix-la-Chapelle; by the way of Liege and Sedan, they proceeded to Rheims, a city in the Lower Dauphiny; but upon a suggestion that proper midwives could not be procured there, lady Jane, Sir John, and Mrs. Hewitt, went in the stage coach to Paris, where she was delivered of twins by a man-midwife, named Pierre la Marre, upon the 10th of July, in the house of one Madam la Brun, and in the Fauxbourg de St. Germain. The eldest was strong and robust, but the second so weak and delicate, that La Marre was desired to perform the ceremony of baptism before going out of the room. I am apt to think, that, like others, they had been recommended to an inn-keeper, in order to be introduced to a cheap lying-in house, the  
lan l-

landlady of which could immediately procure an accoucheur.

After recovery, she returned to Rheims with the eldest child and a nurse; and in September, had him publicly baptized in the grand cathedral, before a crowded audience; but the second was left behind with a nurse at the village of Damartin, in the neighbourhood of Paris, and to the care of Pierre la Marre.

After a residence of sixteen months at Rheims, they set off for Paris; and carrying the younger child with them, came over to England in a very dismal situation, all the money they could raise, either by borrowing or pledging, being exhausted. On the night of their arrival at St. James's Place, they could not so much as pay their coachman: but here Mr. Murray, the landlord, acted the part of a friend; tho' his two pair of stairs was taken by their constituent, yet, the moment he heard her family and name, he said to her, "Madam, be pleased to walk into my first floor;" and on her modestly declining, he told her, "Lady Jane Douglas shall never be put into a second floor under my roof: I know you will pay me  
" when



“ when you can : pray be so kind as to  
 “ walk in.” Prompted by the true spirit  
 of a Christian, both he and his spouse, a  
 gentlewoman of great integrity and virtue,  
 succoured them in their distress, so as to  
 pass their word to their brewer, butcher,  
 baker, coal-merchant, tallow-chandler,  
 and other tradesmen with whom they had  
 to do.

The straits of Sir John and lady Jane  
 sprung from the duke of Douglas being  
 put out of humour with his sister, on ac-  
 count of a rigorous creditor, who arrested,  
 in his Grace's hands, a small sum of money  
 due by his sister ; and what compleated  
 the misfortune, Sir George Stuart, the co-  
 lonel's brother, was likewise disobliged at  
 him. However, these hardships only  
 tended to make her virtues appear more  
 brilliant. Even in her afflictions, the  
 noble-woman was every way apparent,  
 no complaint or murmuring of any kind  
 ever was heard from her.

By the advice of Mr. Murray, she vi-  
 sited lord M——, their then solicitor-  
 general, with whom she consulted, both  
 as to her circumstances, and if it was re-  
 quisite the children should be naturalized.

As



As to the latter, his lordship told her there was no occasion; for so long as the children were acknowledged by British parents, they were the king's free subjects, be they born in Turkey, or any other part of the globe. And as to the former, \* he advised her to solicit his Majesty's compassion, in and through the interest of Mr. Pelham, then one of the principal secretaries of state. It was on this occasion that she wrote the following celebrated letter, which her landlord, Mr. Murray, delivered out of his own hand.

S I R,

‘ IF I meant to importune you, I should  
 ‘ ill deserve the generous compassion,  
 ‘ which I was informed, some months  
 ‘ ago, you expressed upon being ac-  
 ‘ quainted with my distress. I take this,  
 ‘ as the least troublesome way of thanking  
 ‘ you, and desiring you to lay my applica-  
 ‘ tion before the King, in such a light as  
 ‘ your own humanity will suggest. I

---

\* Her straits were rather communicated by her vi-  
 sage than by words. The solicitor understood her  
 situation, and, of his own accord, wrote to the duke  
 of Newcastle, then at Hanover, in her favour.

‘ cannot

' cannot tell my story, without seeming to  
 ' complain of one, of whom I never will  
 ' complain. I am persuaded my brother  
 ' wishes me well; but, from a mistaken  
 ' resentment, upon a creditor of mine de-  
 ' manding from him a trifling sum, he has  
 ' stopt the annuity which he had always  
 ' paid me; my father having left me, his  
 ' only younger child, in a manner unpro-  
 ' vided for.

' Till the duke of Douglas is set right,  
 ' which I am confident he will be, I am  
 ' destitute! Presumptive heiress of a great  
 ' estate and family, I want bread Your  
 ' own nobleness of mind will make you  
 ' feel how much it costs me to beg, tho'  
 ' from the King. My birth, and the at-  
 ' tachment of my family, I flatter myself  
 ' his majesty is not unacquainted with.  
 ' Should he think me an object of his  
 ' royal bounty, my heart will not suffer  
 ' any bounds to be set to my gratitude;  
 ' and give me leave to say, my spirit will  
 ' not suffer me to be burdensome to his  
 ' majesty longer than my cruel necessity  
 ' compels me. I little thought of ever  
 ' being reduced to petition in this way:  
 ' your goodness will therefore excuse me,

C

if



‘ if I have mistaken the manner, or said  
‘ any thing improper.

‘ Though personally unknown to you,  
‘ I rely upon your intercession; the con-  
‘ sciousness of your own mind, in having  
‘ done so good and charitable a deed, will  
‘ be a better return than the perpetual  
‘ thanks of, Sir, your most obliged, most  
‘ faithful and obedient servant,

JANE DOUGLAS STEWART.

St. James's Place,  
May 15, 1750.

In compliance with this solicitation, Mr. Pelham laid her letter before the King, who, without hesitating a moment, ordered her 300l. per annum out of his private purse; one half of the sum to be instantly paid down. All which was done, and Mr. Pelham wrote her an immediate answer, intimating his Majesty's condescension.

This seasonable relief empowered her to buy cloaths suitable to her rank and dignity, and in these she appeared at court on the 4th of January 1751. The King took particular notice of her, and spoke three times to her, while she stood in the ring.



ring. In the most gracious manner he asked her, "Is your brother kind to you, lady Jane?" She faintly said, "No, he is not good for much;" but with great earnestness, added, "However, he is a faithful subject to your majesty." To this the King replied, with a smile, "Well, that is very good so far; I am very sensible of his faithful attachment to me." By means of the royal bounty, she not only appeared well, but kept company with the greatest and most virtuous persons, who unanimously agreed in the acknowledgment of her virtues, but particularly the singular tenderness toward her children, never going out of the house without recommending them to her landlady. "Mrs. Murray, (said lady Jane) pray let the children stay in your parlour till I return; my maid-servants (naming them) are glaike; (*i. e.* heedless;) but if they be with you, my mind will be perfectly at ease." If lady Jane had any foible, it was an over-fondness for her sons.

The sun-shine of prosperity was but short-lived; the poor colonel was apprehended for a debt of 200*l.* and confined to the prison of the King's Bench, where

Theodore king of Corfica and he sometimes lived well, and sometimes very indifferently, according to the ebb and flow of their supplies. There was one thing happened about this period, which, if duly adverted to, might have been of advantage in the great cause, at least it would have shewn the absurdity of maintaining any plot being carried on by the colonel.

As Mr. Murray observed two sheriff-officers watching, and pointing at his windows, he became a little apprehensive of the colonel's circumstances, and so conducted him, by means of a ladder, into a house in the neighbourhood; from thence he was carried in a chair to Spring-Garden, where Mr. Murray found him, about 7 at night, sitting over a bottle, every way chearful, but not intoxicated; and so very happy, that he had not the faintest remembrance of what had happened in the former part of the day, when he was perfectly sober.

The colonel's confinement involved lady Jane in fresh difficulties; for removing which, she went down to Scotland in the summer of 1752, taking the two boys along with her. She carried them



to the castle of Douglas, from whence she wrote to her brother in the most moving terms, but to no purpose; the duke refused her access: indeed, his heart seemed at first to melt, and he discovered an inclination to see his sister, which White of Stockbridge entirely prevented, by assuring his Grace of the truth of those reports then spreading, with all the art of dexterity, to lady Jane's disadvantage.

1. That Margaret Kerr, who had lived long a servant with lady Jane, had declared, that a marble table could as soon bring forth a child as lady Jane.

2. That lady Jane had applied to Archibald duke of Argyle to have her brother confined as a madman, or to be sent to the island St. Kilda.

3. That she had fomented mobs, and sent the rebels against him in the year 1745.

4. That the countess of Stair had, at a visit paid by lady Jane, discovered the imposture, by opening the mouths of the children; and remonstrated with her in these terms, "Lady Jane, you cannot pass these boys upon the world as twins, for  
" one



“ one of them must be considerably older  
 “ than the other.”

A bad tale is sooner believed than a good one. The duke was imposed on; and the friends of A. Stuart, who were numerous indeed, helped to propagate the plots and contrivances of colonel Stuart and lady Jane. According to my information, his mother, his aunts, his sisters, and all connected with him, loudly proclaimed the cheat; only Sir Robert Henderson declined speaking upon the subject; he either kept silent, or, whenever it was mentioned, he instantly withdrew.

Of all lady Jane's enemies, Thomas Cochran, now E— of D——, was the most mischievous; for he not only communicated the supposed discovery by the countess of Stair, but when that lady interceded with him to mollify the duke of Douglas, and incline him to relieve the necessities of lady Jane, he excused himself, by telling her, that such a thing was impracticable, for that his Grace had received a letter from Count Douglas, a French nobleman, informing, that lady Jane had bought these children out of an hospital for eight shillings, and would not  
 hear

hear of her name. She had the further mortification to be refused access to the D---s of H-----n, when she came to pay her compliments in an honorary visit. Of this she bitterly complains in a letter, 8th December 1752, wrote to the minister of Douglas, and in which she begs his prayers for herself, and her dear little ones, Archy and Sholto; a strange request indeed, if these were impostors! In that letter she likewise complains of the baseness of Mr. Archibald Stuart, to whom she gave her papers, \* to deliver to her brother. Stuart received them with remarkable transports of joy; and promised, without desiring of him, to use his warmest endeavours to persuade the duke to restore to his sister the 30,000 merks: he also assured her, that he would do all in his power to incline the duke to restore back

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\* I. A resignation of the estate of Dudhope in favour of lady Jane.

II. Nomination of lady Jane, as sole executrix.

III. Bond of provision for 30,000 merks, or 1666 l. 13s. 6d. all these dated March 15, 1718.

IV. Warrant by his Grace to his commissioners, dated 25th April, 1718. And,

V. Commission, the duke of Douglas to lord Charles Kerr, and others, to sell and dispose of timber in Jedburgh forest.



the 300l. per annum with-held these few years past.

All this seemed to be very well : however, Mr. Stuart thought fit to forget his engagements ; and to excite the duke still more, he proposed to him to bring an action against her for recovering these papers, even while the same were in his own hands. A pretended law-suit was accordingly set up, and the charges put up to the account of the duke of Douglas, by whom he was paid with the money already in his own hand.

These papers had been procured from the duke, by Archibald Douglas of Cavers, the heritable sheriff of Teviotdale, a gentleman of the greatest honour and goodness of heart. Sensible of the dependance of lady Jane upon her brother, he thought it proper that she should have something to show to the world. In this Cavers Douglas acted according to his usual dignity and compassion, but indeed Archibald Stuart acted only like himself.

After the fruitless attempt to convince and pacify her brother, she returned to London, leaving the children to the care  
of



of Isabel Walker; but soon hearing of the death of Sholto, she became disconsolate; and in August 1753, going back to Edinburgh, she sickened and died; partook of the sacrament in the New Grey-Friars church on the 11th of November; and on the 21st of that month, she expired; testifying to the very last the most affectionate tenderness to her son, who being brought to her about eight in the morning, she laid her hand upon his head, and said, " God bless you, my child; God make you a good and an honest man, for riches I despise; take a sword in your hand, and you may one day be as great a hero as some of your predecessors:" and lingering till about twelve, she expired, without so much as a groan, being entirely emaciated and decayed. She bore her affliction with great patience and resignation, and retained her noble spirit till near the very last: for in the language of Mr. Gusthart, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, a man who would not write a lye, or subscribe a falshood for all the riches in the world, " She excelled the most of her sex; she is gone, (said that devout man) and shines no more in this world; but good reason have we to hope she has made

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" an

“ an happy change, where all sorrow and  
 “ fighting fly away \*.” Leaving her only  
 child almost naked and disconsolate ; Pro-  
 vidence, however, was kind to him ; for  
 lady Shaw, an intimate with the mother,  
 took him to her own house, supported  
 him like a gentleman, and put him to  
 the school of Laswade, in Mid-Lothian,  
 where, according to my information, Mr.  
 Dundas, the now lord president of the  
 court of session, had occasion to see him ;  
 and laying his hand on his head, said these  
 very words ; “ You have the face of a  
 “ Douglas, and one day you will become  
 “ as great as any of the heroes of your  
 “ house.” And, as a farther proof of  
 her parental affection, she left him her  
 gold repeating watch, with a steel chain,  
 two gold seals, and some other pictures ;  
 a locket, a tweezer with blue stones  
 set in silver, a silver tooth-pick case, a  
 ring with four small diamonds, a ring  
 with two small pictures, a sapphire ring  
 with two small diamonds, a plain small  
 gold ring, a small amethyst ring, three  
 little snuff-boxes, a gold horn, two small  
 gold medals, an amethyst buckle, two  
 pair of gold buttons, a dozen of silver  
 forks, knives and spoons, and a dividing  
 spoon.

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\* Defender's Proof, page 957.



All this time the colonel was in prison, but soon his affairs took a more favourable turn; he agreed with his creditors, came down to Scotland, where his elder brother dying, he became heir to the estate and honours of Garntully; and so became Sir John Stewart, possessed of 1000l. a year; married a third lady, and so made a greater figure at the end of his days than in the beginning.

Fortunately for the duke of Douglas, he came out of his captivity, for so I may call his unhappy situation, he being denied to mankind, and mankind denied to him; for on the 16th of March 1758, he was married to Mrs. Margaret Douglas, daughter to Mr. Douglas of Mains, a lady of real fortitude and virtue, of great goodness, condescension, and humanity, and breathing all the spirit of a Douglas in every step of her conduct.

From the time of his marriage the duke became more universally known; he paid and received visits, went frequently to Glasgow, and other places of public resort, and even spent some weeks at the Abbey of Holy-Rood-House, where he was complimented by the principal



cipal persons of distinction in the kingdom, and where he was every day more and more satisfied of the innocence of his sister, and became convinced that the falsehoods with which she was charged were groundless and cruel.

The duke of Douglas always entertained the highest personal honour and regard for John duke of Argyle, and for his brother the earl of Ilay the same, who succeeded him. The respect was mutual, Archibald duke of Argyle, in a visit paid him at the Abbay, and in a conversation about lady Jane, assured him, that she had never applied to him to do the least hurt to his Grace; on the contrary, that she had solicited his interest to procure him a pardon, that he might have an opportunity of going to London, of seeing, and of being seen; and then it would be apparent that his Grace's ailment was only a lowness of spirits; that he wanted nothing to be agreeable but to be known.

The countess of Stair likewise contradicted the barbarous report raised against her, for that she never made any discovery, by inspecting the mouths of lady Jane's children: she even told him, that she

“ she had importuned major Cochran to  
 “ carry a letter from her to his Grace, to  
 “ prevail with him to do something for  
 “ lady Jane and the children ; when lord  
 “ Dundonald told her, that it was need-  
 “ less, for that last time he was at Dou-  
 “ glas castle, he had made use of her  
 “ ladyship’s name, to influence the duke  
 “ to do something for his sister lady Jane :  
 “ that the duke thereupon said, he was  
 “ very sensible both of the friendship of  
 “ lady Stair and of him, lord Dundonald,  
 “ to him and to his sister ; and that, as  
 “ his friend, he would show him his rea-  
 “ sons for not doing for his sister, and  
 “ carried him into another room, where  
 “ he shewed him a letter from Count  
 “ Douglas, bearing, that his Grace’s  
 “ noble family was well known over all  
 “ Europe, and that he could not bear to  
 “ think of a spurious brood being imposed  
 “ upon his family ; and thought it his  
 “ duty to inform his Grace, that his sister  
 “ lady Jane, and colonel Stewart, had  
 “ bought these children out of an hospi-  
 “ tal ; that the duke had further said, he  
 “ would not expose his sister in his life-  
 “ time, but that at his death, the said  
 “ letter from Count Douglas would be  
 “ found at the bosom of his settlement,  
 “ and



“and would justify him to the world, for  
“his having done nothing for his sister.”

So moving a representation drew tears both from the eyes of the duke of Douglas and of the countess of Stair; the former having never had a letter from Count Douglas, relative to any business whatever, except one dated at the castle de la Suza, near Laon, August 4, 1753, vindicating himself in the politest manner from ever having wrote a word to his Grace about lady Jane.

S I R,

I Cannot refuse the request which my lady Jane Stewart has made me. In order to undeceive you with respect to the facts contained in the letters which have been falsely imputed to me, I protest to you, Sir, that I never wrote to you any thing concerning her. I was ignorant of the facts necessary to the execution of such a design; I did not know either of her marriage, or the fruits, which were the consequences thereof, &c. &c.

And here it is observable, that his Grace never saw this letter till after the above conversation with lady Stair; for  
at



at that time he pretended never to have received any signed letter bearing that the children were impostors, except from lord Dundonald himself, though he had several anonymous epistles to that purpose; and that he never had such a conversation with him as the countess had mentioned.

Such affecting scenes made so lasting an impression upon the generous and tender heart of the Dutchess of Douglas, that she frequently afterwards proposed to the duke to enquire into the birth of lady Jane's children, and that if the survivor was really her son, he ought to relieve lord Cathart of the burden of his education; the earl of Morton, Sir William Douglas of Glenbervie, and Mr. Hamilton of Overton, with several others, proposed to his Grace to do something for the young gentleman, of whose real birth the dutchess was now most fully and certainly assured.

She had employed one Mr. Alexander Hunter, merchant in Edinburgh, to desire the favour of the Rev. Mr. William Harper, one of the ministers of Edinburgh,\* to converse with Mrs. Hewitt,

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\* A church of England clergyman, but in that country a dissenter.

and

and to endeavour to learn what she knew with respect to the birth of lady Jane's children; the gentleman agreed to it, informed Mr. Harper of what the dutchess had said; and further, that if they were truly the children of lady Jane, she, the dutchess, intended to do something for the survivor of the twins: on this occasion Mr. Harper went to Mrs. Hewitt, and told her at whose request he was come, "to enquire of her in the most solemn and serious manner what she knew concerning the birth of those children, and that though he had no authority to put her upon oath, yet he hoped she would deal with him in the most open and candid manner, as she then was in a declining state of health, and that affair might be of great consequence; and that her telling the whole truth in that matter might not only affect her in this world, but might forever affect her in the next." Upon which Mrs. Hewitt replied, "Mr. Harper, you have been so long acquainted with me, that I hope you do not suspect my sincerity or integrity; I solemnly declare to you, that I was in the room by lady Jane Douglas, when she was delivered of those boys: I was  
" the



“ the first woman that ever touched  
 “ them after they came from her.” This  
 declaration was confirmed by a letter  
 which she signed, sealed, and delivered  
 to him out of her own hand, giving, for  
 a reason, that Mr. Wood, the surgeon  
 who attended her, had told her that “ she  
 “ was in a dangerous way.”

This positive declaration, from a per-  
 son of candour and uprightness, was a  
 sufficient testimony, especially as Mr.  
 Harper deponed, “ That he does verily  
 “ believe Mrs. Hewitt to be a woman of  
 “ truth and veracity, and a sincere con-  
 “ scientious woman.”

The dutchess of Douglas being advised  
 of this conversation, did not fail to inform  
 the duke thereof, each of them being  
 fully convinced of Mr. Harper's rectitude  
 of heart, which I really believe, in my  
 own conscience, could not be bended by  
 any views whatever; the duke began to  
 speak more favourably, leaving off the  
 expression, *the Pretender*, for so he, in  
 derision, called his nephew; he not only  
 sent Sir William Douglas to converse  
 with her, and with Mrs. Walker, but  
 even went in person with his gentleman

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to

to visit Mrs. Hewitt, at her chamber in one Clarke a peruke-maker's house, conversed with her for an hour upon lady Jane's situation at and after marriage, but particularly concerning the birth of the children; to all which she gave the most satisfying answers. The duke became more and more mollified, and ever after entertained the best opinion of Mrs. Hewitt, notwithstanding the endeavours of his enemies to prejudice him against her. He employed her landlord to make him a peruke, which, when Mr. Clarke came to fit on, he asked very kindly for her, and desired him once and again to be a good landlord to her; he spoke of her with the utmost honour and politeness, calling her, on every occasion, "An  
 " excessive sensible honest woman, had  
 " always been a great friend to him, to  
 " his sister, and to his family in general." He became very attentive to her circumstances, ordering frequently hare, salmon, and such other things as came from the country, to be sent to her; and at leaving the marquis of Tweedale's house with his family, he ordered some wine, with all the remainder of his coals, for her support.

Your



Your lordship will be pleased to know, that the enemies (*a*) of Mr. Douglas made now a bold push to undo him; they even created a separation between the duke and dutchess, who being at Newbattle, near Dalkeith, she was, on a cold night, hindered access to his chamber, conveyed in a dishabile to Edinburgh, sickened upon her hardships, and, if my information be good, she even aborted. However, his Grace soon became sensible of the injustice done her, a reconciliation soon was brought about, and their conjugal affection became stronger than before. From this time he became more and more convinced of his sister's innocence, in imposing children upon his family, of the candour and rectitude of the dutchess: so that, toward the latter end of his days, to be extremely sorry for the treatment he had given to both.

The duke's temper and disposition of mind appear, in all these scenes of distress, not to have been bad, or viciously obstinate: he seems to have been capable of

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(*a*) Major Cochran, Archibald Stewart, and White or Stockbriggs.

sympathy, and to have possessed an heart entirely susceptible of impression; for you see that the conversation with lady Stair drew tears from his eyes. When Mr. Loch, writer in Edinburgh, sent him a writing by lady Jane's own hand, containing an account of her life for several years antecedent to her marriage; he desired a sight of such letters as were referred to, and asked many questions about lady Jane and the children, which Mr. Loch resolved with all the candour and humanity the subject would admit: he told him of lady Jane's distress for the death of Sholto, "the distress and poverty she was in at her own death, and the neglect she had met with from her friends;" all which affected him so much, that on Mr. Loch's departure, he told Mrs. Hepburn, the dutchess's sister, "That he would sleep none all night, as the account of his sister's distress had affected him so much;" and added, "That he saw from the reading of that paper, that she had certainly been the most injured woman in the world; that all that lady Jane had suffered in her life, did not affect him so much as what she suffered at her death." He smote upon his breast, repeated



repeated some of the expressions Mr. Loch had mentioned, and, with tears and cries, expressed his regret for the neglect which he himself had shewn.

By this time, my lord, he was satisfied of what he thought was impossible to be known from another quarter; \* for, convinced of the good characters of Isabel Walker, Mrs. Hewitt, and Effy Caw; but above all, of the cruel falsehoods laid to his sister's charge, he began seriously to think of making up for the losses of the mother, by ample donations to her son; nay, to such a degree was he chagrined against some people, that when the dutchess was pleading with him to make a settlement of 10,000l. in favours of lord Douglas Hamilton, he used these very words, " You do not know the Hamiltons so well as I do; they have been always very great enemies to my sister, and to you; and if you was in their power as much as they are in yours, they would not give you five

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\* When the dutchess pressed him to send proper persons abroad, to make enquiries, he replied, it was impossible, and too late after so many years.—I wish Andrew Stuart had been of his Grace's opinion.

" hundred

“ hundred pence, if you was begging \*.” He told her, “ That she had struggled well for him, and for the honour of his family ; desired her to continue still to struggle ; for (said he) the matter is not yet at an end :” Nay, when in the acutest agonies, and scarcely drawing his breath, he very much regretted his sister ; said, “ She had been ill used by himself, prayed that God Almighty might forgive him, and might also forgive those † who had been the instruments of his doing so.” In a word, the duke being fully convinced of his sister’s honour, he, on the 11th of July 1761, left his whole dukedom of Douglas, and whole other land estates, to his nephew Archibald, the son of lady Jane ; and at the same time nominated and appointed his consort, Margaret dutchess of Douglas, the duke of Queensberry, and earl of Morton, as tutors and curators during his minority. Having thus settled matters, he died on the 21st of that month, in the 67th year of his age, universally beloved by all who had the honour to know him.

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\* Defender’s Proof, page 436. † Major Cochran, Mr. Archibald Stewart, and White of Stockbriggs.

His



His Grace was possessed of all the grandeur and sweetness that could adorn dignity; his eyes were remarkably fine, his gesture was graceful, his visage venerable, and his whole person faultless; the kindest master, a friend to the indigent; and, if not kept up from the world, to the utmost of his opportunity, a father to the poor. Perhaps, in a work more voluminous, his name may be mentioned, and then it will appear how grossly he has been misrepresented, and how unjustly the misfortune of a young officer was laid to his charge.

Things being in this situation, Mr. Douglas was served heir to his uncle on the 9th of September 1761, upon an irresistible evidence that he was habite and repute the son of lady Jane Douglas, and Sir John Stuart of Garntully, nay, Mrs. Hewitt, actually deponed as represented before. Soon after this, actions were brought, at the instance of the duke of Hamilton and earl of Selkirk, for declaring their right to certain parts of the estate, upon some ancient deeds of settlement; but these were rejected, and their claims declared groundless.

After

After the service, Andrew Stewart, the son of Archibald, went over to France, in order to trace out an imposture! He traced Sir John and lady Jane through the different places of their abode during their stay upon the continent; and, by the direction of some French lawyers, had a proclamation read in all the churches of Paris, pasted up in the most public places of the city, and under the sanction of the archbishop there; the consequence of which was to engage a cluster of the most grovelling wretches to appear as evidences of the allegations complained of. Many witnesses were examined before the Tournelle Criminelle; and Andrew Stewart judging he had done great things, returned to Scotland, after almost a full years absence; and making report to his constituents, they were all taken with the importance of the discoveries, but he did not produce authentic copies thereof: however, a summons was directed to Mr. Douglas on the 7th of December 1762, (*i. e.*) an action was brought against him before the court of session, for reducing the service already named: and that things might go on still more successfully, Sir John Stewart of Grantully was examined



mined upon the pregnancy of his spouse, and the birth and situation of his son.

Never did a person appear in a court of justice under more disadvantages; he had an inflammation in his bowels, his urethra was immoderately swelled, he had the gout in his stomach, and now had the cruel mortification to be questioned about the legitimacy of his son. He was carried to the Parliament House in a chair, in which he was incapable of sitting down; the head of the chair was held up, lest it might fall upon his; and when brought into court, he leaned his breast against some folio books then upon the table, and his arms were supported by others.

Under these unhappy circumstances, he answered the questions put to him, more concisely than might have been expected: he was positive as to the pregnancy, the birth, and what after happened; he only erred in some dates and difficult names, and even his mistakes, entirely owing to his pain, were soon cleared up, though at that time they fed the sanguine hopes of his enemies. The poor gentleman was senseless through a

pressure of years, tortured with agony, and entirely put out of temper with the disputed legitimacy of his son. And now the action went on more vigorously, the fame of Andrew Stewart was founded to the skies ; a representation of what had been done in France was made to the House of Peers, but the French proof was rejected, and the Court of Session was appointed to proceed *de novo* upon the merits of the cause ; so while Mr. Douglas was at Westminster school, and the young duke of Hamilton was a child of about nine years old, both the money of the one and of the other, particularly of the latter, circulated every where.

The dutchess of Douglas, on this occasion, discovered a greatness of soul sufficient to ennoble her to posterity. She set out for France in December 1762, attended by her sister, & Miss Fleming Primrose, a lady who could speak the French language ; visited Paris, Rheims, Aix-la-Chapelle, and every other place where accounts could be had of lady Jane : her Grace's enquiries confirmed her more in the belief of her nephew's legitimacy, and of the low means that were used for proving him an impostor. Among others,

Andrew



Andrew Stewart had, in the *Monitoire*, given a personal description of Sir John Stewart, lady Jane, and Mrs. Hewitt.

In consequence of the remît from the House of Peers, the Court of Session named Anselme Joseph Doutremont, Esq; advocate of the parliament of Paris, to examine witnesses for Mr. Douglas, in order to set aside the proof brought before the Tournelle Criminelle at Paris, which was given out to be irresistible against him. He began at Paris in November 1764, and continued examining witnesses there, at Aix-la-Chapelle, Leige, and Rheims, till July 1765, having in that interval examined no less than 133 witnesses, every one of whom tended to prove him to be the son of lady Jane; for at Aix-la-Chapelle and Leige the pregnancy and progress thereof were established beyond any possibility of doubt; and Sir John's being convinced of the same, was demonstrated; for being one day in the coach with lady Jane, a beggar, nauseous and disfigured, came to the door to ask charity; on which the colonel hastily went out, turned the man aside, and giving him a trifle, desired he would instantly fall behind, "as there was a lady in the

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" coach,

“ coach, whose condition might be fatally affected with the view of him,” The character of lady Jane was likewise fixed upon the most solid foundation, all who had the honour of being known to her vying in her encomium; nay, one of the witnesses declared, “ She was mild like an angel.” The evidence before M. d’Anjou at Rheims was no less satisfactory; and though Pierre la Marre, the man-midwife, was dead, and Madam la Brun was either dead, or out of the way, yet it was very clear that both the one and the other had existed, and that the delivery had been effected by the former, in the house of the latter.

The proofs on both sides being reported, the Court of Session ordered the parties to print the same: they were partly parole, or partly consisting of large productions of letters, and other papers, and were printed at Edinburgh, January 28, 1766. And now the lawyers had as fat a cause, and as large a field to work in, as at any period since the first institution of the court of session, *anno* 1532.

They had to roam through the materials that had been collecting for 4 years together



together at a vast and immoderate expence, under the sanction of the parliament of Paris, the police and clergy of France. The defender was obliged to follow, and so the informations on both sides swelled to a size hitherto unknown.

To represent the pleadings upon that occasion, would be dry and tedious; sufficient it is to say, that after a litigation for an year and a half, it was, on the 20th of July 1767, finally determined by the lords of session in Scotland, in favours of the plaintiff, by the president's casting vote, there being seven for sustaining the service, and seven for reducing the same.

The speeches of the judges upon that occasion composed a quarto volume of themselves; and indeed some of them seemed to be natural and well digested; that of Mr. Ferguson, lord Pitfour, is strong, nervous, and conclusive; that of Mr. Brown, lord Colston, is really generous, and founded upon the laws of justice and equity: the first gives it as his opinion, that the words of the dying are to be regarded; that a man's birth-right, flowing from the acknowledgment of parents, was unalienable: and the latter

latter very candidly urged, that a positive evidence was to take place of a circumstantial, especially in a case like that before them. “ Let not us (said he) deprive him of his illustrious birth, of which there is such strong and irresistible evidence.”

Mr. Home, lord Kaims, so famous for the subtlety of his reasoning in the different books he has published, was likewise upon the side of Mr. Douglas; as was lord Affleck, lord Gardenstown, and Mr. Burnett, lord Montboddo; which last actually declared, that if the pursuers had proved twice more than they had done, it was no way affecting.

Those on the other side founded upon the French evidence, and drew conclusions that were rather forced than otherways. The p——t being a man of an high and assuming turn of mind, contrary to the general order of the court, was the first to give his opinion: he dwelt much upon the circumstance of leaving Rheims at so unseasonable a time, as within eight days of the delivery; just as if a woman could know when she was to be delivered. The leaving the two  
maid-



maid-servants behind, and dating letters from Rheims while at Paris, was insisted on; just as if it was possible to account for the whims of a woman with child, or for the conduct of people in necessitous circumstances. The letter from Mrs. Hewitt to Isabel Walker, giving the account of lady Jane's delivery, being wrote no sooner than twelve days afterwards, was constructed to be a plain indication of the imposture; just as if a woman's not writing was to be accounted for. A woman, an uncouth writer, hurried with business, attending upon a delicate lady just delivered of twins, cannot be expected to be equally desirous of writing, as one more accustomed to the pen.

Lord Aylmer spoke upon the same side with the president: indeed his reasoning was closer, and yet his arguments were strained. The other judges had nothing remarkably striking in them, further than to dwell upon the forged letters of la Marre, and the accounts given by Sir John Stewart, which they construed to be contradictory.

From this interlocutor of the Court of Session, an appeal was made to the House  
of

of Lords; which, by reason of a multiplicity of business, could not be overtaken in the winter of 1767. It was deferred till after the meeting of the new parliament, November 13, 1768, when it was appointed to be heard at the bar of the House of Lords on the 16th of January 1769; however, it did not come on till Thursday the 19th, when Sir F——r N——n, and Mr. M——y, Lord A——te for S——d, appeared on the side of the appellant, counsellors Y——k and W——n, with Mr. D——g the S——r G——l, stood up for the respondent. The L——d A——te opened it up on the side of his client, in a manner that discovered an uncommon acquaintance with the subject: he spoke four hours the first day, as long the second; and on the third he concluded, after being heard for two hours. Sir F——r N——n followed; and after a speech of three hours, he said, that he reserved himself further to the Reply, which it was agreed he should make to the several things that might be thrown out by the respondents council, who next day began to be heard.

Mr. Y——k was the first to open; and indeed he exerted himself for his clients,  
spoke



spoke for three hours the first day, as long the next; and on January 26th, Mr. W——n pleaded about four hours; after which the Lords adjourned till Wednesday the 1st of February, on which day he likewise appeared. Then Mr. D——g desired to be heard upon the same side, which, notwithstanding it was unusual to hear three on one side, and but two on another, yet was granted; and he spoke two several days, for three hours at each of the times; and then the reply was appointed to be given on the 20th, when Sir F——r N——n spoke first for three hours, and next day he finished, after a reasoning of three hours and an half.

Indeed he had a large field for argumentation, the reasons insisted on by the opposite side being in themselves groundless and inconclusive. Thus, said Mr. W——, can it be supposed that a gentleman and lady should come from Rheims to Paris with but a guinea, in order that she might lye in? Equally absurd, as if a man was to go and buy black cattle without money in his pocket. Every thing with him was an absurdity. “Lady Jane and Mrs. Hewitt were the basest  
G . . . and

“ and most designing of their sex. Sir  
 “ John Stewart was the transactor of the  
 “ business, and carried on the whole im-  
 “ posture; he fabricated the letters said  
 “ to be wrote by Pierre la Marre, pur-  
 “ chased the children from their parents,  
 “ that is, Mignon, the glass manufactu-  
 “ rer’s son, which they endeavoured to  
 “ make Mr. Douglas, and Sanry the rope-  
 “ dancer’s son, whom they would fix to  
 “ be Sholto, from the circumstances of  
 “ the time when these were taken away,  
 “ and the outward marks corresponding  
 “ to an identity.” Mr. W———n even  
 insisted, that the child Sholto had a rup-  
 ture, in order to demonstrate that he was  
 the child of Sanry; and though Godfroi’s  
 books were acknowledged to have mis-  
 takes, yet they were insisted on to be  
 proof against lady Jane Douglas, and her  
 husband Sir John. The oath of Mrs.  
 Hewitt was insisted on to be false, Sir  
 John Stewart to be below contempt or  
 refutation; and the solemn declaration of  
 lady Jane at her death was constructed to  
 proceed from hypocrisy, and to be of a  
 piece with the other anecdotes attending  
 the imposture; and even alledged that  
 lady Jane had, in the fourth month of  
 her pregnancy, not only positively denied  
 she



she was with child, but begged of Miss Wemyss to contradict the report.

The council having ended on both sides, Monday the 27th of February was appointed for the decision. They met about eleven in the morning, and soon entered upon the question, Is the appellant the son of lady Jane Douglas, or not? The first to open was the duke of Newcastle, who for half an hour spoke to very good purpose, and declared for Mr. Douglas. He was answered by lord S——h, who spoke about three hours and twenty minutes, in which his lordship talked so much about midwifery, that one would have been apt to conjecture he had been pretty well acquainted with the fair sex.

After his lordship had finished, the lord C——r went through the different parts of the evidence, and of A. Stewart's conduct, which he highly condemned; and then concluded with declaring, that he believed, in his soul and conscience, that the appellant was really the son of lady Jane Douglas.

Next to him the duke of B——d spoke for the respondent; and then lord M——d  
 G 2                                      began :

began: he was of the same opinion with the C———r, and touched at such matters as had escaped the other: he fainted away for a few minutes; when reviving, he again resumed the thread of his discourse, which in about an hour he closed, to the satisfaction of a crowded audience, and then the decree of the Court of Session was unanimously reversed. A general satisfaction was visible almost in every countenance, every person hastening, as soon as possible, to tell the news to those most nearly concerned in them. And indeed it was no wonder, since the illustrious birth of a gentleman was confirmed, and an immense estate vested in one who was doomed to beggary, and to be excluded as a foundling from off the face of the earth.

I. It certainly appears from an irresistible evidence, that lady Jane Douglas was married to colonel Stewart; that she became pregnant, was delivered of twins, and afterwards had a miscarriage.

II. That lady Jane was a woman of exemplary devotion, who had too deep an impression of the honour of her own family, to contrive the imposing of false children



children upon her brother, or the illustrious house from whence she was sprung.

III. Suppose she had been so basely disposed, yet she would have been next to a mad woman, to commit the carrying on the transaction to colonel Stewart, the most absent, artless, improper person, to be found. Besides, if she was inclined, from a principle of revenge, to bring in false children, there were poor people of the name of Douglas, both in Britain and Ireland; and it would have been more safe to try one of those, than to take one, nay two, from among the meanest of the French king's subjects; and, to crown all, to stay 16 months afterwards in France in the most public manner. This is an absurdity which every person of common sense must see through.

IV. That to buy children without money, was no less absurd than to go to a market of black cattle in that condition, and to pick up two bratts, when they had scarce money to support themselves, was strange and ridiculous. The books of Godtroy, the inn-keeper, in whose house lady Jane was asserted to have been at the time of the birth, were so imperfect and  
erroneous,

erroneous, that no accomptant upon earth could settle a common bill upon them. In some places were blanks to be filled up, and there was a deficiency of articles, (*i. e.*) nothing had been inserted in them from July to September. Besides, when Godfroi and his wife were first spoke to, they remembered nothing of colonel Stewart or lady Jane Douglas, till A. Stewart's wine brought these to their remembrance. Besides, it was impossible to convict lady Jane, unless she had been present at the examination.

V. The letters of Pierre la Marre were never used by Sir John ; they were found in some indirect manner, perhaps by the management of A. Stewart ; and if a superannuated gentleman, whose sight could not be assisted by a microscope, was to mistake them for the real letters which had passed between them, it was no proof of lady Jane's bringing in an impostor, or of Mrs. Hewitt's perjury.

VI. The perjury of Mignon's wife, the pretended mother of Mr. Douglas, was notorious, no less than the act itself of selling her child to a foreigner. Sometimes I would be apt to think that the  
creature



creature never had acted a part so unnatural; but if she did, the time when, the people to whom she sold him, and a variety of other circumstances, among which his complexion and age, put it beyond doubt, that the child she sold could not be Mr. Douglas. The same might be said of Sanry's child. Both Mignon and Sanry's children could speak, whereas neither Archibald nor Sholto could utter a word in December 1749.

It has been, said Sir F——r N——n, roundly asserted, that the child Sholto had a rupture, in order to prove him to have been the son of Sanry the rope-dancer; but I can produce evidence at your lordships bar, that the child was as sound as any person within these walls. “ I have a letter from a gentleman of character upon the subject.”

Your lordship will be pleased to know, that a note was given to Sir F——r, intimating, that Mr. Murray, a gentleman formerly named, was shocked to hear the assertion, and signified his willingness to make affidavit, that, to his certain knowledge, the child Sholto \* (*i. e.* behold) had

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\* That was the name of the first Douglas, (*i. e.* black and grey) anno 767.

no rupture when he came to his house in December 1749, nor while he lodged with him, viz. 23 months; nor at the time of his going away.

VII. The tenderness of lady Jane, and of Sir John Stewart, for the children, is incompatible with the notion of an impostor; and the straits to which they were reduced, demonstrate that the children were really the sons of lady Jane; nay, her husband Sir John, even after the death of his consort, on succeeding to his brother's estate, executed, September 1763, a bond of provision for 50,000 merks, (2778l. 1s. 8d.) in favour of his son; and when Mr. Loch, the drawer of the bond, represented, that it was too much, considering the estate of Grantully did not exceed 1000l. a year; he made answer, that though it was a large sum for that estate, it was yet too little for the son of lady Jane Douglas. And, as a farther testimony, he, of his own proper motion, made the following declaration about a fortnight before he died.

*Murthly, June 7, 1764.*

**H**AVING lately had some severe fits of the gout in my stomach, with my health in other respects much impaired; these, with



with my great age, going 76, makes it appear incumbent on me to make the following declaration, as aspersions have been thrown out by interested and most malicious people, as to the birth of lady Jane Douglas, her children, in order to rob the surviving child, Archibald, of his birth-right, by making his parents, lady Jane and me, appear infamous, to make him illegitimate.

I, Sir John Stewart of Grandtully, do solemnly declare before God, that the forementioned lady Jane Douglas, my lawful spouse, did, in the year 1748, bring to the world two sons, Archibald and Sholto; and I firmly believe, the children were mine, as I am sure they were hers. Of the two sons, Archibald is the only in life now. I make this declaration, as stepping into eternity, before the witnesses after-mentioned; James Bissett, minister of the gospel at Caputh; and James Hill, minister at Gurdie.

JOHN STEWART.

This representation does not flow from any prejudice to the illustrious family of Hamilton, who are really Douglasses, the present duke of that name being de-  
H scended

scended lineally from a second son of the marquis of Douglas, and the heiress of Hamilton. I am only sorry, that in his non-age he should have been treated so cruelly, as to be involved in a law-suit, on which immense sums have been expended, and which at last has ended so much to his disadvantage. Sure his mother, a lady of remarkable sweetness of temper, could not be the promoter thereof, being a stranger in the country, and, like other ladies, unacquainted with law. I am afraid that the ambition of some of the surname of Hamilton, with the assuming temper of Andrew Stewart, have been the principal cause; and if it be true that those of that name did, from the time of the death of the marquis of Douglas, fix their eyes upon the estate, and did what in them lay to hinder the duke of Douglas and his sister from marrying, it was a striking instance of the superintendency of Providence, that their schemes should be baffled, and their expectations frustrated. Sure I am, from the known character of the duke of Argyle, and of his son the marquis of Lorn, who is married to the dutchess of Hamilton, that neither the one nor the other of these had any hand in what was transacted; both of them



them being noblemen of the most peaceable disposition, and never involved in law.

Perhaps, my lord, upon no occasion whatever, did the moderation and justice of the peers shine with more distinguished lustre: there was no caballing among the great; they heard the council on both sides with the utmost patience and indulgence; and such as gave their opinion seemed to act with all the integrity of honest men. The duke of Queensberry daily attended; and on the last day, viz. the 20th, when the reply was made, he brought Mr. Douglas down to the house in his own coach, to hear the cause, which he did with all possible sedateness and composure. In this his Grace acted with his usual good sense and generosity, being a nobleman of the strictest honour, circumspection and conduct; the language of this D— being, “That he was convinced of the strict honour of his cousin lady Jane Douglas, notwithstanding of all that had been said.” The night of the decision, every one crowded to pay their compliments, and among these, the dutchess of Northumberland and lady Delaval; for whenever they received a card from major Douglas, they hastened

hastened to the dutchess of Douglas, to wish her Grace joy upon the happy event.

The joy upon the decision was universal, so great was the regard for the name! About two hours after it was passed, an express set out for Edinburgh; and arriving about 7 in the evening of the 2d of March, the city was illuminated, bonfires were kindled in the public places: the towns and villages followed the example of the metropolis. Europe, Africa, and the two Indies, heard the news with satisfaction at an event by which the character of the first lady in the nation was rescued from infamy and reproach. She had been cruelly treated when alive, distressed at her death; and now her name and reputation shine the brighter, since her persecutors aimed at nothing less than to render a woman, habituated to devotion, odious, by making the world believe, that with a lie in her mouth, and perjury in her right hand, she had rushed into the presence of the Judge of all the earth, before whom neither craft nor artifice can avail, no secrecy can screen, nor yet the ingenuity of lawyers can lessen or exculpate.

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